

In the summer of 1888, Dr. M. L. Leach of Traverse City, Michigan, while exploring Oqueoc Lake in Presque Isle County, Michigan, found a *Unio* in abundance, which proves to be *U. complanatus*. His account of this "find" is as follows:

"In a nameless brook that drains a small lake into the Oqueoc from the north, I found great numbers of the *Unio* referred to. You know I had hopes of finding a 'giant clam shell,' and shell heaps made by some primitive people in the Oqueoc. I found the heaps, which are only beds of shells, not more than six inches in depth, and seldom more than two or three square yards in area, scattered irregularly about over a few square rods of ground. They are on dry land a few rods from the brook, are very old, and are evidently the refuse from the camps of some primitive people who ate the clams. I could find in them only the one species of *Unio*, now existing in the brook. Smaller collections of refuse shells are seen at other points on the banks of the lake, but all consisting exclusively of this one *Unio*. So much for a sensational newspaper story."

These facts show that the colony of *U. complanatus* thus discovered is one of ancient origin, though apparently of limited extent. How it came to be there is a very interesting question. The very considerable labors of our collectors in other parts of the State, especially through the southern and western portions, have failed to discover the species elsewhere. The existence of this isolated colony, far from any other known locality where it is found, is one of those peculiar facts of distribution which arrest the attention, and challenge investigation. It may be considered practically assured that the species does not occur in the southern portion of the State which has been most thoroughly worked over. Should future explorations find the species inhabiting the streams of the upper peninsula and the more northern counties of the lower peninsula the explanation would be obvious. But until that is known, all is conjecture, except the fact that the species does inhabit the Oqueoc and its tributaries and is entitled to admission to the fauna of Michigan.

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**DESCRIPTION OF HELIX (TRACHIA) DENTONI N. SP.**

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BY JOHN FORD, PHILADELPHIA.

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Shell small, depressed, umbilicate, rather thin, shining; color corneous-brown, encircled above the periphery by a faint brown

zone. Surface under a lens presenting a roughish appearance, caused by granules elongated in the direction of lines of growth. Spire depressed, slightly convex; apex obtuse. Whorls 4, gradually widening, the last depressed; deeply and abruptly descending to the aperture, rounded at the periphery, very strongly constricted behind the peristome. Aperture very oblique, nearly circular; lip narrowly expanded, flattened, white, upper and lower margins continuous across the parietal wall, the basal margin slightly thickened within. Umbilicus deep, rather narrow.



Height 3, diam. 7 mill.

Habitat New Guinea.

This species is allied to *H. tuckeri* Pfr., but may readily be distinguished from that species by the continuous peristome, more oblique aperture and deeper constriction of the whorl behind the lip.

The type specimen was received from Mr. GEO. W. DEAN, of Kent, Ohio, to whom it was presented by the sons of WM. DENTON, a devoted naturalist who lost his life while pursuing his researches in the interior of New Guinea.

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#### NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *HELICINA OCCULTA*.

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BY CHARLES R. KEYES.

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This operculate land shell was first described in 1831, by Say, from fossil specimens; and it has been only quite recently that living examples have been found. The species is a characteristic fossil of the loess (post-pleiocene) of the Upper Mississippi Valley; and is widely distributed over this region. It is found abundantly in the post-pleiocene deposits of central and eastern Iowa and portions of Illinois, while it occurs less plentifully in similar depositions along the Missouri river. Like the large majority of loess fossils of the region this form is strikingly depauperate, evidencing, as first pointed out by Megee and Call,\* a great diminution of vitality, doubtless due, in great part at least, to a much lower temperature than at present. All the shells from the loess present a peculiar chalky whiteness which renders them easily distinguished from "dead" shells of the same species still living. More than thirty species of land and fresh-water mollusca are now known from this deposit in Iowa; and

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\* American Jour. Sci., Vol. xxiv, Sept., 1882.